

FORT CAMPBELL ENVIRONMENTAL HANDBOOK
Guidance and Instruction
DISPOSAL OF EMPTY PROPANE NRC BOTTLES
(TAB 16)

December 2003

1. **Purpose and Scope:**

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide information on the disposal of empty propane NRC bottles

2. **Reference:** None

3. **Definitions:** None

4. **General:**

- a. Propane gas is used for many purposes at Fort Campbell.
- b. All empty small bottles that have contained propane gas should be salvaged as scrap metal after the propane is completely spent and the valve stem removed.
- c. Partially full bottles should be salvaged for future use.
- d. No propane bottles should be placed in a dumpster.
- e. An explosion at the landfill could cause property damage, injury or death.

5. **Responsibilities:**

- a. The EQO is responsible for:
 - 1) Disseminating the information in this bulletin to all parties in his/her unit,
 - 2) Ensuring that propane bottles to be discarded are properly emptied by having the valve stem removed.
- b. Each individual who has a propane bottle for disposal is responsible for removing the valve stem and ensuring the bottle is empty.
- c. PWBC, Environmental Division, is responsible for periodically checking dumpsters and compactors to determine if these provisions are being followed. Infractions will be recorded on photographs and reported to the chain of command.

6. **Instructions:**

- a. All propane should be completely spent before proceeding.

Caution: The bottles must be taken to an outside area where the excess gas can not accumulate and/or explode. A blowtorch adapter should be attached to the fitting, turned to the on position and lighted to burn the excess propane in the bottle. Let the gas burn until the flame goes out by itself.
- b. Once the gas has been spent, the core of the valve on the top (beside the main valve of the bottle) should be removed. The valve is similar to a tire stem valve and can be

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removed using a tire stem tool (Federal Stock Number 5120-00-541-4687). The tool may need some modification to allow it to reach the core.

Caution: Care must be taken in releasing compressed gas. Wear gloves. Temperatures drop suddenly when compressed gas is released and freeze burns or frostbite can occur.

c. After the core of the valve has been removed, turn the bottle upside down and allow to stand for five minutes. Propane is heavier than air and will flow downward.

d. Once the bottle is empty, it is ready to be discarded as scrap metal.

Caution: One full or partially full bottle mixed in with scrap metal can create problems for the scrap metal dealers and cause the installation to lose our market for scrap metal.

7. Additional Guidance:

a. For additional guidance and information, and answers to your questions, contact Solid Waste & Recycling Program Manager, PWBC Environmental Division, 798-9782.

b. For future reference, place this document behind *Tab number 16* in your Fort Campbell Environmental Handbook.